Kapurthala Coach Factory

1309. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Coach Factory at Kapurthala is fully competent enough to make the coaches;

(b) whether it is a fact that private firms have been given orders to supply the main portion of the coaches;

(c) what is the percentage of the production of a coach being actually done by the factory at Kapurthala; and

(d) what advantage is coming to Government due to this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Railway Coach Factory (RCF) at Kapurthala is fully competent to make the coaches.

(b) No, Sir. RCF manufactures the main portion of the coaches.

(c) Major portion of the production work involved in coach manufacture is being done by RCF. However, some non-critical components and sub-assemblies are outsourced. Their quality is ensured by RCF by regular inspection.

(d) This enables RCF to concentrate on the core activities of coach fabrication and assembly and reduces cost as the sophisticated machinery and trained manpower is released for manufacture of critical components.

Rail bridges over Ganga and Kosi rivers

†1310. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of rail bridges being constructed at Patna and Munger on Ganga and Kosi rivers between Nirmali-Bhaptiyahi in Bihar;

(b) the respective estimated amount for the said three rail bridges of mega project and the amount spend on the same so far; and

(c) the time-limit fixed for final completion of the said three bridges and the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The details are given as under :—

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Anticipated Cost (Rs. in Crore)	Approximate Expenditure incurred upto 31.3.2005 (Rs. in Crore)	Outlay (2005-06) (Rs. in Crore)	Status
1.	Patna-Ganga Bridge with linking lines between Patna and Hajipur (19 km.)	627.47	186.31	42.00	Land acquisition and earthwork is in progress. Sub-structure of main bridge taken up. Overall physical progress of this project is 33%.
2.	Rail-cum road bridge at Munger-new line (19.8)	921.00	78.69	42.00	Final location survey including detailed investigations completed. Sub-structure of main bridge taken up. Land acquisition is under process. Overall physical progress of this project is 12.5%.
3.	Kosi Bridge new line (22 km.)	323.41	1.56	9.00	Final Location Survey completed. Land acquisition taken up. Earthwork and bridge works also taken up.

These bridges are likely to be completed in a period of 3-4 years depending upon availability of resources.

Introduction of tourist trains

1311. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to start about 100 tourist trains in the country on the lines on which 'Palace on Wheels' is being run;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether the fare would be charged in foreign currency;

(d) if so, the reasons for not charging the fare in Indian currency; and